GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2053
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Eco-system of Rivers
Chandrappa Shri B.N.;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;M. Smt. Vasanthi

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of rising number of contaminated rivers in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the riverine ecosystem is adversely affected due to the contaminated rivers and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure better maintenance of the structure and function of the natural eco-system of the rivers in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is taking any comprehensive measures to protect and save all the rivers in the country including Cauvery and Krishna; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b)The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) monitors the river water quality across the country through a network of 1275 monitoring stations on various rivers under the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWQMP). As per the report published by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in February 2015, 302 polluted river stretches have been identified on 275 rivers based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution. The State-wise details are at Annexure-I.

(c) to (e) State Governments/ concerned local bodies are responsible for setting up facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage as well as proper disposal of dead bodies for abatement of pollution of rivers. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries which is handled by Ministry of Water

Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation from 01/08/2014 onwards) has covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers, including Cauvery and Krishna, in 75 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4517.82 crore. So far, Central share of Rs. 2056.58 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement schemes and sewage treatment capacity of 2445.71 million litres per day (mld) has been created under the NRCP programme (excluding Ganga & its tributaries). Works at a sanctioned cost of Rs.269.10 crore have been implemented for pollution abatement of river Cauvery in 13 towns in Tamil Nadu & Karnataka and 169 mld treatment capacity has been created under NRCP. Similarly, works at a sanctioned cost of Rs.28.74 crore have been implemented for pollution abatement of river Krishna in 2 towns in Maharashtra and 55 mld treatment capacity has been created under NRCP. The details of rivers covered under NRCP, State-wise is given at Annexure-II.

Financial assistance is also available to State Governments for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including sewage treatment plants, in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme of Ministry of Urban Development and the Namami Gange programme (under NGRBA) of MoWR,RD&GR.

CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to all the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees in the country, for setting up of sewage treatment plants in their respective States. CPCB also issued directions in October, 2015 to 69 municipal authorities of metropolitan cities and State capitals, under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated for abatement of pollution of rivers.

To control discharge of industrial effluents, the CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. To improve the monitoring of compliance, directions have been issued to specific industries to install online 24x7 effluent and emission monitoring devices.

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